

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RANDY G. MASSEY
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

FEBRUARY 26, 2007

DOWELL MAN CHARGED WITH FIREARMS OFFENSE

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on February 7, 2007, **RICHARD M. DALTON**, age 35, of Dowell, Illinois, was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois, in a one-count indictment charging him with unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon. The alleged violation took place on December 31, 2006, in Dowell.

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The offense carries a penalty of up to 10 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a term of 3 years' supervised release. **DALTON** is currently being held without bond pending an April 23, 2007, jury trial.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, United States Marshals Service, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives pursuant to those agencies' participation in the Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. The goal of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is to remove illegal guns and drugs from our communities. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses in the system that will get them the most time.

The case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson for prosecution.